# A Room-by-Room Guide to Prevent Home Fires

The majority of home fires occur during winter, peaking in December and January. Protect your family, and check these areas in your home.

## Family Room
- Make sure light bulbs do not exceed the recommended wattage for fixtures.
- Professionally clean the fireplace and chimney annually.
- Ensure electric cords are free, not pressed against a wall or under carpet.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything flammable.

## Laundry Room
- Remove lint buildup in and behind the dryer, and in the exhaust duct.

## Bedrooms
- Install smoke detectors in each room. Test monthly and change batteries twice each year.
- Make sure upper-floor bedrooms have an escape ladder and that family members know how to use it.
- Check to ensure electric blanket cords are in good condition.
- Turn off portable heaters when you sleep.

## Kitchen
- Clean grease off cooking surfaces.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the room, and review instructions.
- Keep items that can catch on fire away from heat sources.
- Don’t leave the room while cooking.

## Basement
- Clear areas around the furnace and other heat-generating equipment.
- Ensure breaker wires are secure.
- Check wire insulators for signs of erosion.
- Keep trash out of basement.

## Garage
- Put oily rags in an airtight container and away from heat sources.
- Store gasoline and gas-powered tools away from ignition sources.
- Install a fireproof door between the house and garage.
- Clear garage of junk.

*Protect Your Family*
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